

Claims:

1. A drip chamber in a cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage system comprising:
a tube having an outer surface; and,
a vent in fluid communication with the tube, the vent having a filter made of a porous material wherein the pore size of the filter is about $3 \mu\text{m}$.
5
2. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the porous material is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (e-PTFE).
- 10 3. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the porous material is a hydrophobic material.
4. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the vent has a surface area ranging from about 0.8 cm^2 to about 5.0 cm^2 .
- 15 5. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the filter is flush with the outer surface of the tube.
6. The drip chamber of claim 5 wherein the vent is integral with the outer surface of the tube.
7. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the tube is rigid.
20
8. A drip chamber in a cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage system comprising:
a tube having an outer surface; and,
a vent in fluid communication with the tube, the vent having a filter made of a porous material, the pore size of the filter ranging from greater than $.45 \mu\text{m}$ to about $5.0 \mu\text{m}$, the filter being flush with the outer surface of the tube.
25
9. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the vent is integral with the outer surface of the tube.
- 30 10. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the porous material is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (e-PTFE).

11. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the porous material is a hydrophobic material.
12. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the pore size of the filter is about $3 \mu\text{m}$.